



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, October 24, 2007

Major Developments

Update: California Wildfires

For the latest California Wildfires situation report from the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) of the U.S. Department of Energy, please click on the following link: <http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/>

Update: San Diego County has Lost Major Connections to Electric Grid; California Declares Power-Transmission Emergency for Southern California October 24

Winds and fires have intermittently cut San Diego County's transmission links to the Western power grid, leaving it as an electricity island at times over the past 24 hours. According to Michael Niffli, the chief operating officer of SDG&E, this "islanding" condition makes the San Diego area susceptible to major blackouts unless customers conserve power. The utility and the mayor of San Diego have made such public appeals. SDG&E usually gets about one half of its electricity from outside of its service area but SDG&E's two major links to the rest of the U.S. Western power grid have had problems. The Southwest Powerlink connects to Arizona and has been shut since Sunday. The other major link, which has three lines connecting to SCE's system near San Onofre had only one of those lines operating this morning and it was shut entirely several times last night. Never before has California faced as many shutdowns on the big power lines that are strung across the state and link it with the rest of the U.S. Western grid, said California Independent System Operator spokeswoman Stephanie McCorkle. According to SDG&E, with all available power plants operating in the San Diego area today, demand can be met, but load would need to be shed and outages will likely occur if any of these units have problems and shutdown

Bloomberg News, 13:23 October 24, 2007

Reuters, 11:26 October 24, 2007

Reuters, 12:52 October 24, 2007

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6538219.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20071024-9999-1b24power.html>

<http://www.sce.com/safety/events/windstorm.htm>

http://www.sdge.com/news/today_electrical_situation.shtml

<http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=39899>

<http://www.snl.com/InteractiveX/article.aspx?CDID=A-6761837-9317&KPLT=1>

<http://www.caiso.com/1c80/1c8081ba3b080.pdf>

Outages Down to 22,000 Customers in Southern California October 24, 2007

SDG&E reported about 20,000 customers still without power Wednesday morning and SCE reported about 2,000 still without power. Arizona Public Power and PG&E have sent in crews to help relieve the overworked SCE and SDG&E crews.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071024/us_nm/utilities_sandiego_grid_dc_2

Electricity

CP&L's 900 MW Harris Nuke Unit 1 in North Carolina Ramped Up to 50 Percent October 24

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 7 percent on October 23.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/ps.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/20071023ps.html>

Update: AES's 495 MW Alamitos Gas-fired Unit 6 in California Back at Normal Capacity October 23

The unit shut for an unplanned outage on October 22.
Bloomberg News, 18:56 October 23, 2007

Update: NRC to Inspect Exelon's 2,294 MW Byron Nuke Plant in Illinois after Water Leak

The plant had shut October 20 due to a water-pipe leak. Exelon revealed that the leak was caused by external corrosion. NRC is evaluating the utility's management of the corrosion and decision to shut the plant.
Bloomberg News, 14:52 October 23, 2007

Electrical Fire in Circuit Breaker at Entergy's 998 MW Arkansas Nuke Unit 2 in Arkansas October 23 Results in Alert; Unit Continued to Operate at Full Power During Alert

The brief fire at about 11:00 pm last night led to an alert being declared, which lasted until 1:33 am today. The breaker affected supplied part of the backup power to plant safety equipment
Reuters, 07:32 October 24, 2007
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/071024/clw077.html?v=90>

OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 6 in Ontario Shut October 23

The unit shut a day after returning online from a 6 day outage. Traders speculate that the unit will be shut for at least a week.
Reuters, 13:10 October 24, 2007
Reuters, 13:12 October 24, 2007

SCE's 2,250 MW San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in California in No Danger from California Fires

According to a company spokesman, the fire is not a threat to any of the units, none of which are currently operating. Unit 2 was shut on October 19 for workers to check cooling water valves. Unit 3 was shut October 9 for planned maintenance.
Reuters, 18:25 October 23, 2007
Reuters, 12:07 October 24, 2007

APS Agrees with NRC to Revise Training at Palo Verde Nuke Plant

APS will provide training for operators on reporting errors after a falsified record incident last year.
<http://www.kltv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7249472>
<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement.html>
<http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=6216>

PG&E's 154 MW Kerckhoff 2 Hydro-powered Unit 1 in California Shut October 23

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200710231515.html>

Petroleum

Crude Unit at ConocoPhillips's 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery Accidentally Shut October 23

Power was accidentally cut to the crude unit during maintenance on a separate system. The company is working to restore the unit.
Reuters, 18:06 October 23, 2007

Leak at Flint Hill's 300,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 22

According to a filing with Texas regulators, a leak on the BTX depentanizer reboiler pump resulted in a discharge of benzene.
Bloomberg News, 17:56 October 23, 2007
Reuters, 18:08 October 23, 2007

DOE Secretary Says OPEC Production Must Increase To Boost Stocks

Reuters, 12:25 October 24, 2007

Mexico Shuts Oil Exporting Ports in Gulf of Mexico October 24

Platform Oil Workers Stranded at Sea, 4 Killed

A cold front and storms hit the Gulf of Mexico, leading Mexico to shut export ports and cutting supply of crude shipments to the United States. Officials estimate that the ports will reopen after Thursday. The storm also caused damage to a Pemex drilling platform. Workers jumped onto life rafts from the platform after it started leaking oil and gas.

Reuters, 01:28 October 24, 2007

Reuters, 12:03 October 24, 2007

Natural Gas

FERC Requests New Route for Pipeline at AES's 2.25 Bcf/d Sparrows Point LNG Terminal Project

FERC agrees with Maryland DOT's claim that the proposed terminal would infringe on the rights-of-way of Interstate 695, and that the plan is not consistent with federal requirements. FERC requests that AES submit a new proposal for a new pipeline route.

<http://powermarketers.net/contentinc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8kowu%5D%5CghllkrsTUie%23%3A%40%24bfem%5Ev>

<http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=6216>

Other News

Nothing to Report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices October 24, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	88.30	88.63	57.45
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	6.11	7.29	7.13

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

PSEG Announces on October 24 its Plans to Build Gas-fired Peaking Plant up to 400 MW in New Jersey

http://www.pseg.com/media_center/pressreleases/articles/2007/2007-10-24.jsp

Michigan PUC Urging for Denial of ITC's 345-kV Transmission Line

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6538226.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

Global Nuclear Power to Grow from 370 GW to 447-679 GW by 2030

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/8318398.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

Utah's Coal Mine Output Estimate for 2008 Decreased by 2.1 MM Short Tons to 25.9 MM Short Tons Due to Shutdowns – Utah Geological Survey

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6536222.xml?p=Coal/News&sub=Coal>

Navajo Nation Prohibits Uranium Mining on Tribal Lands in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7713513.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

Update: Engineer Cites Crack-Like Flaw That Led to Manhattan, New York Steam Pipe Explosion

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/071024/steam_explosion.html?v=1

Joint Venture Proposes Pacific Trail LNG Pipeline in Canada

<http://www.canada.com/cityguides/princerupert/story.html?id=02611521-1c93-4415-bce7-3052261e702b>

BP to Cut 17 Percent of Jobs in North Sea Workforce as Production Continues to Fall in North Sea from 550,000 b/d in 2004 to about 350,000 b/d at Present

Reuters, 08:22 October 24, 2007

Update: Cheyenne Plains Pipeline, Currently Operating at 590 MMcf/d Capacity, to Operate at Full Capacity Mid-November

<http://c.moreover.com/click/here.pl?z1149063576&z=950240351>

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200710231710DOWJONESDJONLINE000744_FORTUNE5.htm

United Illuminating and NRG to Propose Peaking Plant in Connecticut

<http://www.snl.com/Cache/5050935.PDF?FID=5050935&O=PDF&T=&D=&IID=4057436&Y=>

Polar Tankers Pleads Guilty in Hiding 2004 Alaska Oil Spill, Ordered to Pay \$2.5 Million

Reuters, 12:45 October 24, 2007

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov